

Appl. No. 10/658,470  
Amendment dated September 12, 2005  
Reply to Office action of June 14, 2005

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

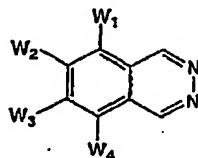
Claims 1-4, 9 (cancelled)

5. (currently amended) ~~An~~ A method for forming an image comprising heating a photothermographic material, which has been imagewise exposed to light, with a thermal developing device, wherein
- the thermal developing device comprises a filter for collecting volatilized substances, and
  - the photothermographic material comprises a substrate and a composition provided thereon and is formed by applying to the substrate a an aqueous coating solution containing the composition ~~and a solvent which contains 30% by mass or more of water~~ and then drying, wherein:
    - the composition comprises a photosensitive silver halide, a non-photosensitive organic silver salt, a reducing agent for thermal development and a binder; wherein
    - the binder is in a form of a polymer latex in which particles of a water-insoluble hydrophobic polymer are dispersed in water,
    - any organic compounds in the composition in an amount of approximately 0.05 g/m<sup>2</sup> or more has a volatilization remaining ratio of 50% or more at 160°C; and
    - the time for thermal development is in a range of 7 to 15 seconds; and
    - the volatilized substances collected comprise the organic compounds.

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6. (original) An image forming method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the organic compounds is represented by the following general formula (I):

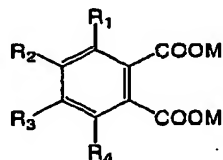
General formula (I)



wherein each of  $W_1$  to  $W_4$  independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and at least one of  $W_1$  to  $W_4$  is a monovalent substituent.

7. (original) An image forming method according to claim 5, wherein at least one of the organic compounds is represented by the following general formula (II):

General formula (II)

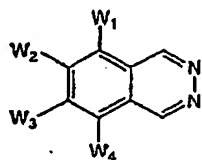


wherein each of  $R_1$  to  $R_4$  independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and when three out of  $R_1$  to  $R_4$  are hydrogen atoms, a remaining monovalent substituent is a group other than a methyl group; and M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkali earth metal, an ammonium group, or a phosphonium group.

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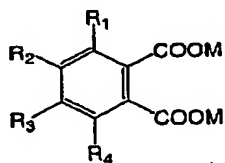
8. (original) An image forming method according to claim 5, wherein the photothermographic material comprises at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (I) and at least one compound selected from the compounds represented by the following general formula (II):

General formula (I)



wherein each of W<sub>1</sub> to W<sub>4</sub> independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and at least one of W<sub>1</sub> to W<sub>4</sub> is a monovalent substituent:

General formula (II)



wherein each of R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub> independently represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent substituent, and when three out of R<sub>1</sub> to R<sub>4</sub> are hydrogen atoms, a remaining monovalent substituent is a group other than a methyl group; and M represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkali earth metal, an ammonium group, or a phosphonium group.